

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: YOUTH PROGRAMS

DATE: AUGUST 25, 2006

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Gabriels
F. Thomas
Merlino

Others Present:

Margaret Smith, Director, Youth Bureau
Joan Sady, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Stec
Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors Champagne
Girard

Mr. Gabriels called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. F. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mrs. Smith, and she distributed copies of her Agenda packet for the meeting, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Smith commenced with review of the Agenda and she presented requests for approval of resolutions and referrals as outlined under Agenda Item No. 2.

First, Mrs. Smith requested approval of a resolution to amend current agreements under the USTA (United States Tennis Association) grant program. She apprised the agreements were with the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Lake Luzerne and the request was to reduce Glens Falls' grant by \$300 and to increase Lake Luzerne's allocation by \$300. Mrs. Smith recalled the total grant award was for \$3,900. She explained the City could not use its grant funds and she had found that Lake Luzerne could use them.

Motion was made by Mr. F. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented, and to authorize the necessary resolution for the next board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Next, Mrs. Smith advised as a result of joint efforts between the Washington County EOC (Economic Opportunity Council, Incorporated), the Washington County Youth Bureau, the Warren County Youth Bureau, and Warren County Cooperative Extension, the State Department of Health had awarded an Assets Coming Together (ACT) for Youth grant to the EOC. She noted only 12 of these grants were awarded in the State. Mrs. Smith apprised the funds would be used to provide activities and training sessions for youth development activities. She advised the grant would start this year and run through June 30, 2007 and the department would receive \$6,996 and \$2,693 for this year's portion. Mrs. Smith apprised \$600 of the funds would be used for a desk

for the Program Coordinator who would represent both Counties and who would be located in her office.

Continuing, Mrs. Smith advised the EOC had put together an agreement for Warren County to sign to accept the funds and provide the activities. She requested approval of a resolution to authorize the agreement and to amend the 2006 Warren County budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned requests, as presented, and to authorize the necessary resolution for the next board meeting. The request to amend the budget was referred to the Finance Committee. Copies of the resolution request forms and the agreement are on file with the minutes.

Pursuant to Agenda Item No. 3, Mrs. Smith spoke on the Warren County Youth & Family Services Plan. She explained this year the Youth Bureau, the County Department of Social Services and the County Probation Department were all included in New York State Office of Children and Family Services Plan for 2007 through 2009. Mrs. Smith explained each of the departments were required to sign off on the plan and to work together on it. In addition, she said the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors would need to authorize the submission of the plan. However, Mrs. Smith said she was not sure if the request would also go through the Social Services Committee but she had brought it to this Committee because her signature was required. She stated she had not been able to contact Mr. Phelps, Commissioner of Social Services, to find that out in time for this meeting.

Following brief discussion, Mrs. Smith requested approval of a resolution to authorize submission of the aforementioned plan.

Motion was made by Mr. F. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented, and to authorize the necessary resolution for the next board meeting, if appropriate. *(Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Phelps advised the Social Services Committee at its August 30th meeting that he concurred with Mrs. Smith requesting the resolution through the Youth Programs Committee. Mr. Iusi, County Probation Director, advised Mrs. Sady, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, that he also agreed that the request could go through this Committee. The resolution request for the item was forwarded to the County Attorney's Office for preparation of the resolution for the next board meeting.)* A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Stec entered the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Lastly, under the Resolution Requests/Referrals agenda items, Mrs. Smith requested approval of a Certificate of Appointment to appoint a youth representative (under age 21) to the Warren County Youth Board. However, she stated she needed to first check to make sure that Christopher Towers, one of the two youth representatives on the board, had not been

reappointed at the beginning of 2006. Mrs. Smith explained Mr. Towers was not able to serve on the board because he is in college now. In the meantime, she said she had found another youth to serve on the board, and she asked for approval of the appointment of Joseph Deutschmann, contingent upon whether or not there was a vacancy.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request to appoint Joseph Deutschmann as a youth representative on the County Youth Board. The necessary Certificate of Appointment was authorized for the next board meeting. *(Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that Christopher Towers had not been reappointed to the Youth Board in January 2006 and his term had expired on December 31, 2005, which created a vacancy for a youth representative slot on the board.)*

Pursuant to Agenda Item No. 3, 2007 Youth Bureau Budgets, Mrs. Smith commenced with review of the department's proposed 2007 budget requests. Copies of the budget packages were distributed to the Committee members and copies of same are on file with the minutes. The first budget was the A.7311 Youth Bureau Budget. The budget showed a 2007 total request of \$126,795, as compared to the 2006 appropriations of \$128,048, a decrease of \$1,253.

Mrs. Smith pointed out there was an increase in the estimated 2007 revenues in this budget. The 2007 estimated revenues of \$69,042 showed an increase of \$2,462 over the 2006 estimated revenues of \$66,580. She apprised the increased revenues were the result of the award of the aforementioned ACT grant. In addition, Mrs. Smith said she was also going to ask the Youth Board to support the continuation of several activities that were begun this year. She noted last year, at her request, the Youth Board had also reallocated some of the County's eligible funds to a Youth Bureau administrative item. The Committee had also approved a \$1,500 match of some County funds for a Youth Employment project last year, she added.

Continuing, Mrs. Smith stated some of the activities to be continued this year were the Youth Employment workshops that involved about 70 youth in two schools and two agencies. Some training sessions for counselors for the (County's) Employment & Training Office's Summer Youth Employment Program were also held, she said. Mrs. Smith advised they also assisted with a publication entitled "*Lets Get to Work*" which provided information about working and job-related matters for youth. She said copies of the publication were distributed with the *Post-Star* newspaper.

Mrs. Smith advised this budget also included the County's contracts with not-for-profit agencies as shown under the .470 budget code (on the Budget Worksheet Report sheet.) She explained the figure of \$42,000 was an estimate and the exact figure for the contracts would be determined after the Youth Board makes its recommendations for the 2007 programs. Mr. Gabriels asked when that would be; and Mrs. Smith replied the board would meet in October and November to review the programs and decide which contracts to approve. She noted the funds for recreation programs were not included in the department's budget because they do not come to the County, they go directly to each of the towns.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the A.7311 Youth Bureau Budget, as presented, and to authorize the Committee Chairman to sign it and forward it to the Budget Officer.

Next, Mrs. Smith presented the Special Delinquency Prevention Budget (A.7312 budget code). She advised these were the 100% State funds that were used for not-for-profits who serve families who were in very challenging situations. Mrs. Smith stated the budget also included the salary of the Deputy Director in the department who provides the fiscal services for these programs. The total 2007 budget request of \$28,621 was unchanged from the 2006 appropriations.

Mr. Stec left the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Brief discussion ensued as Mrs. Smith responded to questions from the Committee members on various aspects of the Special Delinquency Prevention programs.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. F. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the A.7312 Special Delinquency Prevention Budget, as presented, and to authorize the Committee Chairman to sign it and forward it to the Budget Officer.

The last budget Mrs. Smith presented was the Youth Court Budget (A.7313 budget code). Mrs. Smith pointed out the total 2007 proposed budget request of \$60,500 was the same as the 2006 appropriations. She referred the Committee members to the revenues in the budget package. Mrs. Smith apprised the revenues for the program were from STOP-DWI (\$20,000) funds because the Youth Court was a prevention program. She explained the COPS (Community Optional Preventive Services) funds (\$28,325) come through the Department of Social Services and required a county match. Mrs. Smith noted the Committee members would most likely recall a presentation about the Youth Court which had been made at the June Board of Supervisors' meeting. She commented the Youth Court Program was making a significant impact on young first-time offenders and there had been an 84% success rate with the participating youth. Mrs. Smith stated the County contracts with the Council for Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse for the program and that agency employs the Youth Court Coordinator. She confirmed for Mr. F. Thomas that the County's portion of the funds was \$14,000.

Motion was made by Mr. F. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the A.7313 Youth Court Budget, as presented, and to authorize the Committee Chairman to sign it and forward it to the Budget Officer.

Mrs. Smith reviewed the Updates items listed under Agenda Item No. 4. First, she reported there was a small increase of about \$2,000 overall in the 2007 State funds for all categories of Youth Programs. She advised last year they had some reserve funds because the Youth Board chose not to fully fund each program so they could look at some new programs or expanded

components of present ones as some current youth needs were emerging in the County. Relative to that decision the board did not fund a program that had been funded for a long time, she added.

Continuing, Mrs. Smith advised in view of this concept she would ask the Committee members if she should accept proposals from new applicants or just send the funding applications to the current programs for renewals. She said she was also going to contact the Youth Board about this question. Mrs. Smith stated in their planning activities it had become apparent that youth needs and issues are emerging in the County that needed attention. There could be communities or not-for-profits that would submit proposals for programs and services that would address those needs, she said. Mrs. Smith asked if the Committee members supported this concept or should they advertise that there were funds available with the understanding that there would be competition for the funds. She noted an example of an emergent need would be job preparation for young people. Mrs. Smith stated she had also observed that four or five towns had curfews which showed it was a challenge to keep teens involved in positive ways.

Mr. Merlino and Mr. F. Thomas concurred with Mrs. Smith's suggestion that notification should be made about the availability of the programming funds for potential new applicants and also to the current program providers.

Mr. Gabriels stated as new programs would be coming in that were competitive, the Youth Bureau needed to keep in mind that it would have to stay fully within its budget as the funds were allocated. He asked if the consensus was that all the programs would be competitive and by accepting new ones did it mean some existing ones might or might not be funded fully. Mrs. Smith replied she thought there could be recommendations for programs funded by not-for-profits and for the municipal programs because the municipal ones were funded mostly for recreation. She apprised this year there was a very small amount of reserve left in recreation funds because some of the towns were faced with the problem of charging fees for their programs. However, she said, that was not for programs that use part of Youth Program funds.

Mrs. Smith noted another problem with the timing of the recreation programs was that they conflicted with summer school. She stated due to this and other problems with attracting youth to the programs, the towns needed to figure out some new directions to take with them so as to maximize the program funds. Mrs. Smith noted this year one large town decided to charge a fee for its program and she worked with them to try to get something provided at no cost. However, she said, she did not know what they would apply for in 2007 and perhaps they may have decided they would not apply for any funds. Mrs. Smith confirmed for Mr. Gabriels that possibly some applicants would receive less funds and some might not be funded at all. Brief discussion followed.

Next, Mrs. Smith spoke further on the aforementioned Summer Success/Youth Employment Workshops. She circulated a copy of the curriculum for the workshops which she had developed for the activities to reach all youth along with the County ETA (Employment & Training

Administration) and the County Cooperative Extension agency. Mrs. Smith noted the aforementioned "*Let's Get to Work*" newspaper supplement was distributed in the *Post-Star* in June and extra copies were printed and provided to schools. She displayed a copy of the supplement for the Committee members' information and she said it would be printed and distributed earlier in 2007. In reply to Mr. Gabriels' query on the 2007 distribution date, Mrs. Smith said that had not been set yet but she felt it should be done in April. Mrs. Smith noted she would be working on the publication with the Adirondack Business to School Partnership that was through the Chamber of Commerce. The Committee members concurred that April would be a good time to issue the publication.

Concluding the agenda, Mrs. Smith spoke on the aforementioned Tennis Program and USTA grant. She displayed the tennis rackets and provided details on the rest of the equipment for the Committee members' information. Mrs. Smith circulated a picture of the instructional clinic that was held for the local program instructors. She stated next summer she would like to have a tennis carnival and the USTA would bring instructors to do that.

Mr. Gabriels asked if the funding for the program was included in the budget approved today. Mrs. Smith replied the grant this year was for \$3,900 and it covered the equipment and lessons. She explained in 2007 the County may or may not be eligible for half that amount but she did not know that yet. Thus, Mrs. Smith stated she had not included the grant funds in the 2007 budget request but a small amount was included from the Youth Board to be used for the tennis carnivals. She noted she could help to set them up and work with the USTA people on them. Mrs. Smith advised as soon as she knew about the new grant she would bring the request to apply for it to the Committee to consider and approve. The County budget would need to be amended if the grant was received, she added.

Mr. Merlino and Mr. Gabriels thanked Mrs. Smith for her hard work and success in the Youth Bureau. Mrs. Smith acknowledged the remarks; and she said her success was due to the assistance of her Deputy Director as well. Mr. Gabriels expressed appreciation for Ms. LaRock's, the Deputy Director, efforts. Mr. Merlino and Mr. F. Thomas concurred.

There being no further business to come before the Committee on motion by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. F. Thomas, Mr. Gabriels adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk